

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Every two years the Board of Corrections (BOC) is required by law (Section 6031.2 of the Penal Code) to submit a report to the Legislature that provides an overview of the state of California's local detention system, which is currently comprised of 449 jail facilities and 119 juvenile halls, camps and ranches. The information presented in this 2000 biennial report, which covers the 1998/99 and 1999/00 fiscal years, should heighten awareness and understanding of the critical challenges facing county sheriffs/directors of corrections, chief probation officers and other local corrections professionals as they endeavor to improve public safety in their communities.

Chapter 1 - The State of Local Corrections: Despite successful capacity-building efforts that have more than doubled jail space in the past 20 years, California's jail system continues to confront an acute shortage of beds. Twenty counties that represent over 63 percent of the jail system's Average Daily Population of 76,312 were operating under court-ordered population caps that place a ceiling on admissions and require the early release of inmates. In 1999, over 208,000 inmates were released early due to population caps and the lack of bed space. Despite an infusion of funds since 1997/98, the local juvenile detention system is also facing a shortage of beds. During the fourth quarter of 1999, for example, the highest one-day population for juvenile halls was 7,270, nearly 17 percent higher than the Board Rated Capacity for these facilities. In addition to providing details about these capacity issues, Chapter 1 addresses the fiscal constraints and health issues confronting local detention facilities.

Chapter 2 - The Board of Corrections: The BOC and its staff work closely with county sheriffs, directors of corrections, chief probation officers and other local officials to achieve continued improvement in the conditions of local detention facilities and the delivery of effective local corrections programs.

Chapter 3 - Standards and Inspections: With assistance from more than 100 juvenile facility administrators, managers, practitioners and subject matter experts, the BOC has completed the second biennial review of the minimum standards for local juvenile facilities and anticipates that revised Title 15 and 24 regulations will take effect by mid-2001. Although there were a number of non-compliance issues for juvenile facilities, BOC inspections found a much higher rate of compliance in 1998/00 than in the first inspection cycle. The BOC's 1999/00 review of minimum jail standards has also been completed. The 1998/00 inspection cycle found that the vast majority of jails are in general compliance with minimum construction and programmatic standards.

Chapter 4 - Detention Facility Construction: During this biennial reporting period, the BOC administered 93 state and federally funded construction projects in 45 counties. The three construction programs administered by the BOC provided \$304 million to counties for projects that will add or replace 1,528 jail beds and 3,205 juvenile facility beds over the next four years. Even with these projects, the BOC estimates a jail bed shortfall of 16,700 by 2002, a juvenile bed shortfall of 2,380 by that time, and a need to replace 1,570 dilapidated juvenile beds. With the \$131.7 million state and federally funded juvenile facility construction grant augmentation in the FY 2000/01 State Budget, grants will be awarded in May 2001 to help meet this need.

Chapter 5 - Special Program Initiatives: In recent years, the Legislature has established, funded and expanded innovative grant programs designed to identify effective strategies for reducing juvenile crime and delinquency. With the \$25 million augmentation in the FY 2000/01 State Budget, the Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant Program involves grants totaling over \$125 million that help fund 48 demonstration programs in 20 counties. With the \$10 million augmentation in the FY

2000/01 State Budget, the Repeat Offender Prevention Project involves grants totaling over \$16 million. These grants currently support crime prevention/reduction programs in eight counties and will soon help fund programs in other counties. The Legislature also created the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant (MIOCRG) Program, which involves locally developed demonstration projects designed to curb recidivism among adult offenders with a serious mental illness. The BOC currently administers demonstration grants under this program totaling over \$50 million in 15 counties. An augmentation of \$50 million in the 2000/01 State Budget will result in additional projects.

Chapter 6 - Standards and Training for Corrections: As part of its efforts to continuously improve the hiring and training of corrections personnel working in local jails, probation departments and juvenile facilities, the STC program provided nearly 1.3 million hours of training to over 28,000 local corrections personnel in 1998/99 and nearly 1.2 million hours of training to over 29,000 staff in 1999/00. The STC program also disbursed over \$30.6 million to local agencies to offset training costs. The STC training delivery system includes over 2,500 different courses each year. In 1998/99 and 1999/00, this translated into over 17,600 course presentations by public and private entities to corrections professionals at the local level.

The challenges facing local corrections are many and varied. The BOC is ready to build upon a foundation of successful state and local collaboration in order to meet these challenges, which include maintaining the state's multibillion dollar investment in local jails and juvenile detention facilities; adding needed bed space, keeping facilities operating in compliance with minimum standards, and assuring the appropriate staff are hired and trained.